

Message Text

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67

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DRAFTED BY S/P:JWALKER/SGS

APPROVED BY S/P:RBARTHOLOMEW

EUR:JSHUMATE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099128

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, US

SUBJECT: US - UK PLANNING TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 12864 19 JAN 76

(B) LONDON 01253 26 JAN 76

(C) STATE 46967 26 FEB 76

1. US-UK PLANNING TALKS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN WITH A SOCIAL/WORKING SESSION THURSDAY EVENING 27 MAY AND CONTINUE THROUGH FRIDAY 28 MAY (BRITISH HOSTING THURSDAY DINNER AND FRIDAY LUNCH). TOPICS WILL BE TRENDS IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND SOVIET AND CHINESE OBJECTIVES IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE FIRST SUBJECT SHOULD ENABLE US TO COVER ONE OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN REF (B) (US-EC RELATIONS). WE SHARE YOUR INTEREST IN YOUR OTHER SUGGESTION (OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUED ACTIVIST UK FOREIGN POLICY) BUT THINK WE MAY GET A BETTER FEEL FOR IT THROUGH TALKING ABOUT SPECIFIC ISSUES (E.G., EUROPEAN DEFENSE, AFRICA) THAN BY PUTTING THE QUESTION DIRECTLY. THE BRITISH HAD ALSO SUGGESTED A SESSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT WE HAVE ASKED THAT THIS BE LEFT TO A FINAL HOUR OR SO IN WHICH EITHER SIDE COULD RAISE ANY ISSUE IT WANTED.

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2. WE WOULD WELCOME AN EMBASSY PARTICIPANT IN THE MEETINGS. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP EMBASSY OFFER OF HOSTING A RECEPTION FOR TALKS PARTICIPANTS AND SOME OTHERS IF THIS IS STILL AGREEABLE. FRIDAY EVENING, 28 MAY, SEEMS THE ONLY FEASIBLE TIME. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT MONDAY, 31 MAY, MAY BE A BANK HOLIDAY IN BRITAIN AND PROSPECTIVE INVITEES MIGHT THEREFORE BE FLEEING THE CITY.

3. WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LORD, BARTHOLOMEW, AND WALKER FROM S/P, AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EUR. WILL INFORM LATER ABOUT ARRIVAL TIMES, HOTEL RESERVATIONS NEEDED, ETC. SISCO

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